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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GABRIEL GREGORIO SANTANA AND LUIS ROSARIO VAZQUEZ
INDICTED FOR DRUG DISTRIBUTION, POSSESSION AND
CONSPIRACY**

United States Attorney David M. Nissman announced today that a federal grand jury on St. Thomas has returned a three-count indictment charging GABRIEL GREGORIO SANTANA, age 36, born in the Dominican Republic, and LUIS ROSARIO VAZQUEZ, age 44, born in Puerto Rico, with various violations of the Controlled Substances Act.

Count One of the indictment alleges that the Defendants, and other unindicted co-conspirators, conspired to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and heroin. The total amount of cocaine involved in Count One is approximately ten kilograms, and the total amount of heroin is approximately three kilograms.

Count Two of the indictment alleges that on or about April 23, 2003, the Defendants possessed with intent to distribute cocaine, a Schedule II narcotic drug controlled substance.

Count Three of the indictment alleges that on or about April 23, 2003, the Defendants possessed with intent to distribute heroin, a Schedule I narcotic drug controlled substance.

Santana was arrested after he was observed handing a cooler, containing three kilograms of heroin and ten kilograms of cocaine, to Vazquez. Vazquez was on a boat at the time, and immediately sped away, heading towards Puerto Rico. Vazquez was stopped approximately one hour later, and was found in possession of the cooler containing the drugs. Agents were acting on previous intelligence.

Each of the three counts in the indictment carries a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of ten years, and a maximum of life, along with a Five Million Dollar fine.

U.S. Attorney Nissman thanked Jerome Harris, Special Agent-in-Charge, of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the field offices on St. Thomas and Fajardo, Puerto Rico, for their hard work in successfully investigating and bringing this case to fruition.

U.S. Attorney Nissman emphasized that the indictment is merely a formal charge, and all Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until guilt is established at trial.